

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/636,010

Examiner

Andre' L. Jackson

Applicant(s)

TA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the filing of applicant's application on August 7, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/02/04; 8/23/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art made of record does not disclose or suggest the combination of structural limitations as claimed. In particular, the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest a tool extension assembly comprising the structural combination or the arrangement of the structural components as recited in applicant's claims as follows;

A tool extension assembly including an elongated extension pole, a connecting device connected to the extension pole, the connecting device having a cylindrical side wall with an interior surface defining a hollow interior, the side wall having a pair of opposing axially-extending openings formed therein. A pin extends through the axially-extending openings and has end portions disposed exterior to the side wall of the connecting device. A spring disposed in the hollow interior of the connecting device and operable to bias the pin. An implement and a handle connected to the implement are provided and the handle having a hole formed therein. An insert securely disposed in the hole of the handle, the insert having a cylindrical side wall with an interior surface defining a bore and interior edges at least partially defining a pair of opposing slots. Each of the slots having an opening portion and an end portion and each of the slots extending axially and circumferentially along the side wall between the opening portion and the end portion. The insert further including at least one concentric rib extending circumferentially around the side wall of the insert. The connecting device is receivable in the bore of the insert such that when the end portions of the pin are disposed in the opening portions of the slots and the handle of the tool assembly is rotated in a first direction, the interior edges of the insert move the pin against the bias of the spring toward a second position until the pin reaches the end

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portions of the slots, at which point the pin exerts a force against the interior edges of the insert that pulls the tool assembly and the extension pole assembly together.

None of the prior art references made of record disclose or suggest the combination of structural limitations nor the arrangement of these limitations as set forth in applicant's claims as presented whether taken alone or used in combination thereof.

Therefore, the Examiner believes applicant's claims as presented are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and thus believed allowable over the prior art as related to tool extension assemblies.

CONCLUSION

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre' L. Jackson whose telephone number is (703) 605-4276. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. (10 am - 6 pm).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy J. Swann can be reached on (703) 306-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER